

## CLAIMS

- 1) A protective bib, comprising:  
an expandable collar;  
5 a flexible hoop communicating with said collar, said hoop including a memory quality for allowing the expansion and contraction of said hoop and collar; and  
a body portion extending below said hoop and collar for covering the chest of a wearer.
- 2) The protective bib as recited in claim 1, wherein said hoop further comprises a pair of  
10 ends which can be expanded apart to open said collar for accommodating a wearer's neck.
- 3) The protective bib as recited in claim 2, further comprising opposing arms exterior to said ends of said hoop, said opposing arms providing a grasping surface for spreading said hoop ends and arms apart.
- 4) The protective bib as recited in claim 2, wherein said ends overlap when said hoop is in a  
15 contracted state, to bring said collar in snug contact with a wearer's neck.
- 5) The protective bib as recited in claim 1, wherein said hoop further comprises contoured side sections to fittingly mold with a wearer's shoulders.
- 6) The protective bib as recited in claim 1, wherein said collar further comprises an outer border and a neck opening.
- 20 7) The protective bib as recited in claim 6, wherein said collar further comprises an elastic material combined along said neck opening, creating an expandable region for elastically encircling the neck of a wearer.
- 8) The protective bib of claim 1, wherein said collar is further comprised of absorbent material.
- 25 9) The protective bib of claim 1, wherein said collar is further comprised of non-absorbent material.
- 10) A protective bib, comprising:  
an expandable collar for placement around the neck of a wearer; and

a flexible hoop communicating with and substantially encircling said collar, said hoop including a memory quality for allowing the expansion and contraction of said collar around the neck of a wearer.

5 11) The protective bib as recited in claim 10, wherein said hoop further comprises a pair of ends which can be expanded apart to open said collar for accommodating a wearer's neck.

12) The protective bib as recited in claim 11, further comprising opposing arms exterior to said ends of said hoop, said opposing arms providing a grasping surface for spreading said hoop ends and arms apart.

10 13) The protective bib as recited in claim 11, wherein said ends overlap when said hoop is in a contracted state, to bring said collar in snug contact with a wearer's neck.

14) The protective bib as recited in claim 10, wherein said hoop further comprises contoured side sections to fittingly mold with a wearer's shoulders.

15 15) The protective bib as recited in claim 10, wherein said collar further comprises an outer border and a neck opening.

16) The protective bib as recited in claim 15, wherein said collar further comprises an elastic material combined along said neck opening, creating an expandable region for elastically encircling the neck of a wearer.

20 17) The protective bib of claim 10, wherein said collar is further comprised of absorbent material.

18) The protective bib of claim 10, wherein said collar is further comprised of non-absorbent material.

19) The protective bib of claim 10, further comprising a body portion extending below said hoop and collar for covering the chest of a wearer.

25 20) A protective bib, comprising:  
a collar for surrounding the neck of a wearer, said collar including an outer border and a neck hole;  
an elastic material combined along said neck hole for elastically surrounding the neck of a wearer;

a flexible hoop communicating with said collar along said outer border, said hoop including a memory quality for allowing the expansion and contraction of said collar; and a body portion extending below said hoop and collar.

21) A protective bib, comprising:

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a collar of material; and

memory means communicating with said collar and imparting an encircling force upon said collar for snugly fitting said collar about the neck of a user without necessitating the use of further fastening means.